Modernisation and Upgrdation of National Channels

3325. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reach of National Channels;

(b) whether there is any policy to modernise and upgrade the facilities in the National Channels to compete with other private channels and that of BBC, and CNBC, etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that in satellite mode, National Channels viz. DD-1, DD News, DD Bharati, DD Sports, DD India, DD Lok Sabha and DD Rajya Sabha programmes are available throughout the country. In terrestrial mode, coverage of two National channels, viz. DD-1 and DD News is available to about 90.7% and 45.9% of the population of the country.

(b) and (c) In order to meet the increasing programme production requirements of National channels so as to enable them to compete with other channels, a modern Studio complex, equipped with the state-of-art equipment, has been set up at Delhi at a cost of Rs. 81.60 crores.

DTH Transmission Proposal

3326. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct-to-Home transmission proposal has been well received in the industry;

(b) the number of applications received by Government for the Direct-to-Home transmission proposal as on date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had rejected some proposal for Direct-to-Home services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the applications for Direct-to-Home services which are under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five applications have been received so far, of which, one has been given approval.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Names of applicants whose applications are under consideration are as under:-

1. Essal Shyam Communication Limited;
2. Space TV Private Limited;
3. Sun Direct TV Private Limited; and
4. NSTPL (Noida Software Technology Park Limited).

Obscenity Crime and Violence of TV Channels

3327. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growing obscenity, crime and violence so often depicted/ displayed on the small screen through various channels, especially private ones, has seized Government's attention;

(b) if so, the number of cases booked against different channels during 2004 and 2005 so far; and

(c) what effective steps are taken to prevent and screen out such display and representation on TV having impact on the mind and psyche of the future generation and the people?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government is constantly keeping a watch on content of television channels in India.